

MINUTES

June 22, 2026

Members Present: Alder Kristin Slonski (Chair), Alder Terry Kilian, Chris Filtz, Cody Shaide, and Arlene Kaatz

Others Present: Makayla Galecki (Wausau MPO), Carrie Edmondson (staff), and Patricia Thwaites

Location: Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street, Council Chambers

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Call to Order by the presiding officer

Chair Slonski called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
The group went around with introductions.

2. Public Comment on agenda items and reading of the City of Wausau Public Comment Statement

Patricia Thwaites 2407 Oakwood Blvd., Wausau, stated that she rides a traditional bicycle and has concerns about e-bikes and pedestrian safety on walking paths, specifically the River Edge Parkway. She is grateful for the posted 15 maximum speed limit, but encourages reduction to 8-10 mph. She also suggests requiring bells and horns be used to signal to pedestrians versus a person's voice, as it is more consistent.

3. Election of a Vice Chair

Alder Slonski nominated Alder Kilian for Vice-Chair who noted she would be open to other nominations.
Cody Shaide self-nominated and Filtz seconded. Passed unanimously, 5-0.

4. Consideration of the April 27, 2026, meeting minutes.

Motion/second by Kilian/Filtz to approve. Passed unanimously, 5-0.

5. Discussion and possible action

- a. Approve bike rack request (four total) for Westsider Diner & Lounge 628 N. Third Avenue

Carrie noted that the applicant had submitted a request for four bike racks and has ample space. She said that this item was before BPAC as four bike racks are requested and the City only has six in stock. Tyler noted that he would like to paint them orange. Alder Slonski noted that making them more visible would be positive. No one voiced objection to the number or the color.

*Motion/second by Filtz/Shaide to approve the four bike racks and to paint them orange.
Passed unanimously, 5-0.*

- b. Approve River Drive bicycling on sidewalk and intersection improvements.

Carrie noted that this is a microgap that has been identified in the River Edge Parkway. A gap exists between the Thomas Street bridge and the River Edge Parkway within Oak Island Park. Alder Kilian stated she has no objection to allowing bicycling on the sidewalk. Arlene noted she thinks it is much more comfortable. The eventual goal will be to make this segment a multiuse path, Cody noted there is a desire path that cuts in further at the corner. Alder Kilian suggested signage noting that bicyclists may use sidewalk. Chris stated that signage similar to what is posted on Grand Avenue would work well.

Motion/second Kilian/Kaatz to approve amending the municipal code to allow bicyclists on this sidewalk segment. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion/second Slonski/Shaide to create a high visibility crosswalk at River Drive at the intersection of Thomas Street at the River Drive.

- c. Approve River Edge Parkway Sign Concept and Plan

Carrie noted that the sign where the River Edge Parkway meets Thomas Street was relatively inexpensive and was developed in-house. The committee consensus was to develop concepts for larger trailheads that could include a map and for small signs at key locations.

Motion/second Kaatz/Filtz to approve development of sign concepts and implementation plan. Passed unanimously 5-0.

- d. Approve Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of E. Thomas Street just west of McCleary Street.

Pedestrians waited 5-10 minutes at times to cross because there was uninterrupted traffic. Cody noted that in the spirit of having an interconnected River Edge Parkway, counts will go up as we create the infrastructure. Alder Kilian noted that this is a very problematic crossing. *Motion/second Filtz/Shaide to approve. Passed unanimously.*

- e. Approve Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of 1st Street and McClellan Street

Cody noted that a 240 foot walk to the intersection is a 480 foot round trip for pedestrians. Alder Slonski noted that if people are going to the intersection and working in the Dudley Tower, they are not walking extra distance. Carrie also noted that during pedestrian counts it was noted that people are crossing illegally, which could indicate that they are comfortable crossing. Alder Slonski wondered about the likelihood of people going to an RRFB to cross if they are illegally crossing from the building to the parking lot now. Chris noted that the Dudley Tower has an agreement with the City for a skywalk.

Motion/second Filtz/Slonski to deny Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of 1st Street and McClellan Street. Passed unanimously 5-0.

- f. Approve Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Stevens Drive and Golden Meadow Street

The group discussed the age criteria for youth and noted that many of these pedestrians would likely be high school students and still near the age where pedestrians are double-counted.

Filtz/Shaide motion/second to approve this location and to deny the Stevens Drive and Knox Street proposal. Unanimous approval 5-0.

- g. Approve Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Stevens Drive and Knox Street

6. Discussion

a. MPO Bike/Ped Subcommittee Update

- Wausau MPO Pedal Passport
- Wausau MPO Bike Map
- BFC Application
Application was submitted
- Wisconsin River Loop
- Bike Counter Placement and Locations
Near WOW, near Woodchucks, near old Marathon County buildings, and Peckham Way

Makayla provided an overview of current MPO Bike/Ped Subcommittee initiatives.

7. Update on City projects.

a. RRFB installation 6th Avenue/Bridge Street and 1st Avenue/Callon Street

The 1st Avenue/Callon Street RRFB installation has been completed, and the 6th Avenue/Bridge Street should be completed by next meeting.

b. River Edge Parkway

The OCR petition process continues to move forward.

8. Items for future agendas.

- RRFB analysis to cross Thomas Street at the intersection of E. Thomas Street and River Drive.
- RRFB installation at 6th Avenue and Bridge Street

9. Adjournment

Motion/second by Slonski/Filtz to approve. Passed unanimously. 5-0 The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.